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CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT [redacted] 50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 4 May 1953

SUBJECT Michalka Coal Mine in Slezka Ostrava

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (LISTED BELOW) (A)

DATE ACQUIRED [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF IN[redacted] 50X1-HUM

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1. The "Michalka" mine is located in Slezska Ostrava. The entrance to the mine is from Prijesdni Street. The mine is subordinated to the "Northern Ostrava Mines". The planned daily capacity is 600 tons per 24 hours but this was only fulfilled by 60 to 65%. This old mine has old and insufficient equipment. The number of employees is 700-800 persons, half of whom are apprentices who undergo training. The wages are on a piece-work basis. In the summer of 1951 an explosion caused by a short circuit killed 32 persons, 22 of whom were apprentices.

2. The school for apprentices is in a two-story brick building located in the vicinity of the mine. During the first year theory of mining is the principal subject. In the second year only eight hours a week are devoted to theory; the rest of the time is spent in practical mining, actually working in the mines. The teachers are former miners.

3. After admission the students sign a contract to work an additional three years in the mines after the termination of their schooling. The apprentices are under military discipline in the school and the barracks, and nobody is permitted to leave the mine area without special permission.

4. The school has various advantages, such as: good food, uniforms, accommodations, diversionary excursions, etc. The best apprentices as far as work and political education are concerned receive free flying instructions granted by the Miners' Aeroclub. The apprentices have their own autonomous administration with various branches, eg political education, physical culture, etc.

5. In spite of the described advantages the apprentices try to escape from the school. The main reason is the obligatory political education throughout the entire day as they hear about the Soviet Union, the Communist Party, the great Stalin etc. The first thing in the morning the radio plays Russian songs and reports about fulfillment or nonfulfillment of the plan. After breakfast there is a discussion about the political situation in the world. It is pointed out that workers during the regime of the First Republic have been exploited and oppressed; now, on the other hand, they work for themselves, surrounded by joy and wealth. They are also told that the capitalistic owners of the mines did not provide any safety provisions for protection of workers especially against the danger of explosion and the like. The Soviet Union is described as a model for safety measures and the protection of workers. They point out the stakhanovite work of Soviet workers and describe them as exemplary workers to be imitated by Czech workers.

6. Another compulsory subject is defense of the country which is taught at least twice a week. Apprentices are instructed in the use of various weapons and battle strategy. They are also given target practice with rifles, submachine

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guns and machine guns. The instructors for the defense of the country are officers from the Ostrava garrison. In these lectures special attention is given to the defense of the factory facilities. The same training is also given the members of the workers' militia (factory militia).

7. Plans are being made to build a central shaft. It is expected that there will be six such central shafts in Ostrava. Up to the present time some of these shafts have been built in the General Svoboda mines and in the Stalin II mine. Coal will be transported through these shafts. In the meantime, however, they are used only for mining. Some mines have to be connected with these central shafts by the use of connecting shafts.

- end -

ENCLOSURE (A): Map Showing Location of "Michalka" Mine in Ostrava

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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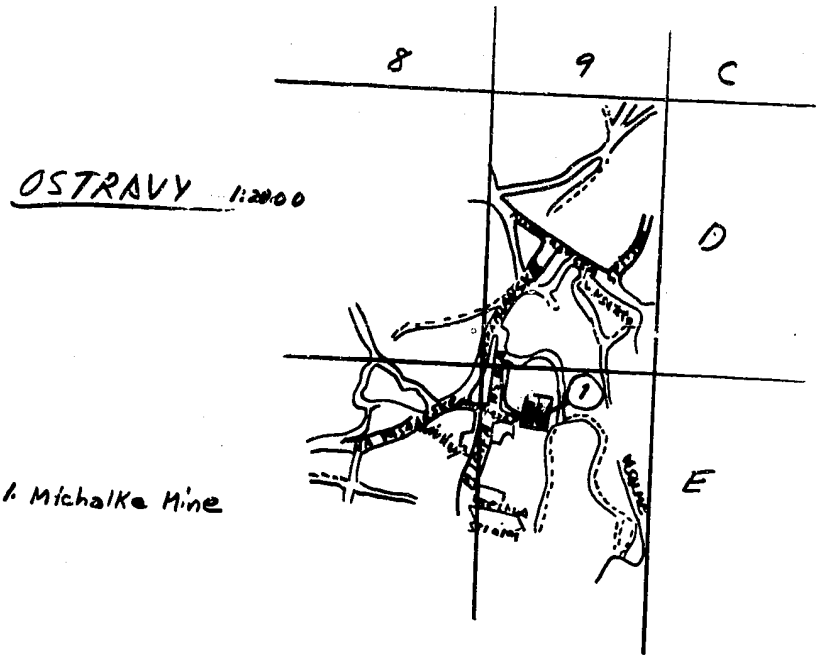
MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF "MICHALKA" MINE IN OSTRAVA



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